



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Swedish classes begin at IKEA this February. If you too want to *prata svenska*, contact John Stavinoha at swedishschool@swedishclub.org for more information about classes, schedules, and start dates.
- Join us January 28th for pea soup and pancakes at the Annual Meeting. Registration and information for the event is available on page 7.
- The start of a new year marks the start of a new membership year. Renewal is available online at www.swedishclub.org or by sending in the form provided on page 9. Thank you for your support of SCH!

In the News



- Swedish diplomat and humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg would have turned 100 this year. Read about the events taking place in Sweden and around the world in his honor. More info: http://bit.ly/wallenberg_100
- The Vasa ship is in trouble again and Sweden is calling on Texas for help. More info: http://bit.ly/Vasa_Texas
- SAAB's car making days may be numbered. The company has filed for bankruptcy after many attempts to stave off the issue. More info: http://bit.ly/saab_story

photos from flickr users: lindaaslund and Johan Larsson

Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen 2011

by JoAnna Harlan



On Saturday, December 10, The Swedish Club celebrated their annual Christmas Traditions and Lucia Day at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church near Rice Village. The event was well attended and the guests enjoyed a spirited, merry evening. The Service of the Word began with an organ prelude of Swedish Christmas songs and carols beautifully performed by Howard Maple. Club President, Devon Westerlund, welcomed the congregation and Lucia chair, JoAnna Harlan, recited the legend of Lucia. Vocalists Stina Mosvold and Veronica Butler led the audience in singing När juldagsmorgon glimmar, Nu tändas tusen juleljus, and Gläns över sjö och strand. The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Millikan presided over the service and delivered a meaningful, timely homily on the significance of Lucia. As the lights dimmed, Lucia Lauren Garde, followed by her sister, Sarah, led the solemn candle-lit procession of 17 Star Boys and attendants and everyone joined them in singing Sankta Lucia as they progressed. After they had assembled at the front of the Sanctuary, JoAnna presented Lucia and Gown chair Margaret St. Clair placed a pewter necklace around Lauren's neck, a gift to her from the Club. Before recessing, with candles still lit, all joined in singing Stilla natt.

Following the service, the guests adjourned to Parish Hall for the Reception. It was beautifully decorated with red poinsettias, red table cloths, and candle-lit centerpieces of fresh greenery and red berries. A fragrant lighted Christmas tree was decorated with small Swedish flags, traditional Swedish straw ornaments, and julgranskarameller (festive tubes filled with candy and decorated with colored tissue paper).

The hall offered a variety of shopping opportunities. There was a bazaar with many carefully chosen items, and all things Swedish – books, ornaments, and delightful gifts. Homemade Swedish cookies could be purchased at the Bake Sale. Talented local artist, Joyce Calderon, displayed her rosmåling for Christmas shoppers. Swedish Club T-shirts were also available. Guests could also test their luck in a raffle that featured some very fun articles, including a lovely serving bowl, a lighted gingerbread house, and an insulated picnic tote filled with goodies donated by IKEA.

Joyce Calderon provided accordion music throughout the evening. Guests also enjoyed the lively Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston as they performed in their colorful costumes. After watching their exhibition, all were invited to join them in traditional Swedish dances around the Christmas tree, and this activity was a favorite of the children. There was another treat for the children – a surprise visit from our very own tomte, Al Clarke. He greeted them and gave each a julgranskarameller.

Refreshments, prepared by Carol Clarke, were also traditionally Swedish and included Lussekatter (Lucia saffron buns), pepparkakor (spice cookies) and other types of Swedish Christmas cookies. Glögg, kaffe, and lingonberry drink were provided as well.

During the reception, Lucia Lauren and her family were introduced. In attendance were her parents, Tim and Jill, her younger sister, Sarah, and her uncle, Ken Garde. Lauren fondly recalls all the stories of Lucia that her mother and grandmother told her when she was a child. Her great-great-grandparents on her maternal grandmother's side and her great-great-grandparents on her maternal grandfather's side were born in Sweden. Lauren will have the honor of representing the Club this summer in Barkeryd, Sweden, at their annual Texas-Swedish Festival. She will be the 24th Lucia to go to Barkeryd, and she will be a charming, capable ambassador.

The Swedish Club thanks the staff of the beautiful Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church for once again hosting the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration. They are all so cooperative and accommodating. JoAnna would also like to extend her sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a joyous celebration!



Lucia's little attendants waiting before the service.



The Star Boys waiting to join the procession.



Lauren leading the procession.



Lauren and Sarah in the sanctuary.



The Star Boys, attendants, and Lucia together during the service.



From left: Tim Garde, JoAnna Harlan, Jill Garde, Lucia Lauren Garde, and her sister, Sarah Garde.



Mona Raspler and Devon Westerlund



Joyce Calderon playing for the crowd



Tomte has arrived!

Pea Soup and Pancake Supper Annual Meeting



flickr photo from: vj_pdx

Reserve your spot today and you'll be ready to dine and decide during our Annual Club Meeting on the 28th. Payment can be made [online](#) or by mail using the following form:

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKE SUPPER

Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 6:15 PM

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston

(Reservation must be received by Wednesday, January 25th)

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," to:

Swedish Club of Houston

c/o Devon Westerlund

7202 Cobbs Oak Lane

Rosharon, TX 77583

Name(s)

Telephone _____

Number of Member and Guest Tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Number of Children (3-12 years) _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Interlibrary Loans (ILL)



Want to read the Millennium trilogy in its original Swedish? Looking for genealogy information? Having trouble finding an older book about Swedish-America?

Your answer may be something called interlibrary loan, or ILL for short. The ILL system is used by most libraries to provide a wide selection of material for patrons using the most efficient method. If your local library doesn't own a copy of something you want, they can ask another library in the country to send it to your local branch for you to check out. And most of the time, this service is free!

This is how it works:

Say you want to read the first book in the Vilhelm Moberg *Emigrants* series in Swedish.

Step 1: Go to your local library and ask to have the book sent through interlibrary loan.

The library will tell you how the process works. Each library system uses a slightly different method to request your item. You can even fill out an ILL form online for the two largest systems in the Houston area: [Harris County Public Library](#) and [Houston Public Library](#).

Step 2: The library will tell you beforehand if there is a cost to request your item.

Most of the time, there is no cost. If a cost is involved, it is typically minimal. Books usually don't carry a fee. Genealogy information will sometimes have a fee. If so, your library will tell you about the cost and ask if you want to continue before they place your request.

Step 3: Once your item arrives, the library will notify you and explain the rules of ILL lending.

(loan time, renewal requests, overdue fines, damage/lost item fees, etc)

That's it! You're ready to enjoy reading *Utvandrarna* in the original Swedish. You now have a nearly bottomless supply of Sweden-related material! Repeat steps 1-4 as much as you'd like!

Membership Application/Renewal

There are three easy ways to renew your membership:

1. Mail this form.
2. Pay online.
3. Bring the form to the Annual Meeting on January 28th.

Membership Type: Application / Renewal

Annual Dues: \$35 Family / \$25 Individual / \$10 Student

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Name(s) and birth year(s) of child(ren) living at home:

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

E-mail Address: Home _____

Work _____

Please e-mail my newsletters to: Home / Work / Both / Neither; I prefer hard copy

Yes! I would like to serve on the Board (please circle): Officer / Finance / Publicity /
Newsletter / Swedish School / Sponsor Relations / Membership / Programs / Webmaster

Yes! I can help chair/co-chair an event (please circle): Pea Soup/Pancake Supper /
Smörgåsbord / Kräftskiva (Crayfish) / Lucia / Valborg (Bonfire) / I have another idea!

I prefer to help "behind the scenes" (please circle): Make baked goods / Help with
decorations / Reporter / Photographer / Make craft items / Set up and clean up / Serve
refreshments / Take reservations / Greeter / Sell raffle ticket

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," to:

The Swedish Club of Houston

c/o John Stavinoha

807 Mulberry Lane

Bellaire, TX 77401



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

*The Swedish Club News is published 6 times a year by the Swedish Club of Houston.
Articles, photos, etc., are welcome.*

*We would especially like personal news of our members, explanation of family traditions
and Swedish culture, news of Swedes and of Sweden, and your favorite Swedish shops,
products or resources.*

Please send your news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address
below.

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West
4023 Sherwood West
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates:

Pea Soup Dinner:
January 28, 2012

Kräftskiva:
March 2012

Valborg:
April 2012